Complaint from contractor of the Malayattoor Depressed Classes colony for non-receipt of contract amount.

220. മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. വള്ളോൻ.—മലയാറ്റൂർ അധഃകൃത കോളനിയിലെ കൺട്രാക്ടുകാരനായിരുന്ന ഗോപാല സ്വാമി സ്വാനന്ദൻ കൺട്രാക്ടുവക സംഖ്യ കിട്ടിയില്ലെന്നുംകാണിച്ചു് വല്ല അപേക്ഷയും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിലേക്കു് അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ; ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ എന്തു ചെയ്തു?

രാമവർമ്മതമ്പുരാൻ.—ഒരു ഹർജി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും അനേഷിച്ചതിൽ അടിസ്ഥാനരഹിതമാണെന്നു കണ്ടതിനാൽ റിക്കാട്ടാക്കി.

Ottupara market.

221. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the approximate quantity of arecanut disposed off at the Ottupara market every market day;

(b) the collection that the licensee makes on the arecanut brought to the market?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Roughly on an average 1,150 to 1,540 Thulams.

(b) The fee is collected in kind, *i. e.*, one handful from every bundle of nut that is sold in the market. No fee is, however, collected from a bundle returned unsold. This kind of collection is called "വാരൽ" and it is common to all arecanut markets. Over and above this a sum of annas 4 is collected by the market owner on every Thulam (1500 Rs. wt.) of nut sold as a remuneration for drying, storing, packing and forwarding the articles to the Railway station. The licensee of the Ottupara market is collecting the fees detailed above.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Has the Government prescribed any limit for this 'വാരൽ'?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not think Government have prescribed the rate to be fixed between the contractor and the persons who bring the articles there for sale.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthasan.—Do the Government impose any condition on the licensee at the time of issuing the license?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran. —I think there are rules. I want notice. I do not remember what are the particular clauses of the license relating to this market.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan. —Are we to understand that this collection is approved by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I answered I want notice. I do not know whether this specific thing has got the approval of the department. I must peruse the license for that. To my knowledge the Government have not to approve this.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know who supplied this information?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—By the D. P. H.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Are not the Government entitled to prescribe fees for the articles brought into the market?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not remember the terms of the license.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and give the information required?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government have absolutely no objection.

Arecanut salepayments in the Ottupara Market.

222. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether they are aware that the persons who sell arecanut at the Ottupara market are not paid then and there either by the purchasers or by the licensee;

(b) whether they are aware that these sellers have to resort to usurious money lenders that flock at the market to get immediate payment of amounts due to them for sale of arecanut;

(c) whether they are aware that these money lenders collect heavy commissions from these sellers?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a), (b) and (c) Government have no information on any of the points.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Have the Government perused the previous interpellations and resolutions moved in this House before answering these questions?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I should confess that I did not look into the past records. I do not know how this answer conflicts with that answer.

Mr. K. G. Nayar.—Were there any questions asked previously regarding this?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know, Sir, whether there is not located very near Ottupara a subordinate officer under the D. P. H.?

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